

Trail addresses upgrades

A presentation by an energy savings company proposing four possible capital project plans for the school district was heard during the public meeting of the Lackawanna Trail School Board on Monday night.

Mark Gallick of McClure Co. of Harrisburg was the main presenter for the energy services company. He apprised the board of the existing conditions of the school buildings, and gave four different proposals, all of which involve upgrades to the roofs of the elementary center and high school, the building envelopes, and the schools' HVAC systems.

Gallick showed aerial photos of the elementary center and high school roof, and said that both are past their warranty expiration dates. The red 1991 section of roof has water pooling on it, and he said that he has been told that ducks come to the buildings in spring and stay for the whole summer.

"This roof is 20-plus years old, and at the end of its useful life," he said.

The high school roof, a coal tar patchwork, was referred to as the 1976 section. This roof has tar and water leaking into the building at this point.

The energy company recommends using 9-millimeter rubber roofing, which should last at least 20 years. A thicker but more expensive grade of rubber roofing could last for 35 years.

The parking lots are heaving and need to be replaced, as well.

Entrances and windows need weather stripping, and exhaust fans need to be replaced.

Regarding the HVAC systems, both school buildings are presently heated with natural gas supplied by UGI. The system is hot water heat only, with no cooling. Traditional univents are installed under the classroom windows. McClure recommends replacing these ventilation systems with large vertical units, about the size of a boiler. "They are bigger than a refrigerator," Gallick said, but showed an example where a primary grade teacher had covered hers with magnets, art and visual aids. He said that these units are more efficient and result in better air quality. The univents can then be replaced with shelving, so storage space in classrooms should not be significantly reduced.

Program A is expected to cost between \$2,550,000 and \$2,710,000, with a 20-year savings of \$1.3-\$1.58 million, leaving an actual program cost of about \$1 million.

Program B is quoted as costing between \$4,510,000 and \$4,790,000, with projected 20-year savings of \$1.5 million to \$1.84 million, and leaving an actual program cost of \$2,670,000-\$3,290,000. There are two other programs that are more costly, but more comprehensive.

Gallick presented the administrators with a flash drive containing the proposals as well as the company's credentials, saying that McClure was established in 1953, and is NAESCO accredited, and is one of the largest Pennsylvania design built contractors. The company exclusively works in Pennsylvania, he said.

After the presentation, the board approved a request for qualifications for potential capital projects. The first opportunity for the board to vote on the proposals will be the April 13 meeting.

KEITH GLYNN



The board approved the appointment of Keith Glynn as business manager, effective May 1 at a salary of \$80,000 as per contract.

The contract for the school district auditors, Murphy, Dougherty, & Co., was extended for a five year period at the following rate of compensation: 2016-17: \$19,500; 2017-18: \$19,875; 2018-19: \$20,250; 2019-20: \$20,625; and 2020-21: \$21,000.

Policy #707.2, Naming Rights, was adopted after its third reading, but will be posted on the district website and may still be modified. Board member Joseph Strauch had several objections to the wording of the policy, and voted against it. But, the motion passed, 7-1.

Policy #815, Acceptable Use of Internet, was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. This policy includes a future addition of student Gmail accounts to the school email server, with parental permission.

Joseph Ross was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mark Lombardi, school board member representing Region 3.

Ross was interviewed in the public part of the work session March 2. He previously served as a Lackawanna Trail school board member from 2000 until 2012, is a graduate of the school, as are his children. He is vice president of sales at Toys R Us in Scranton, and held positions at UPS for 17 years. He said that his labor and union experience should prove very useful for contract negotiations.

It was noted that another candidate, Tanisha Jagoe, has not resided in the district long enough to qualify as a school director.

David Thorne said that Jagoe had put forth an excellent candidacy, and handled her interview well, but after speaking with the school attorney and a Pennsylvania School Boards Association representative, she was not yet eligible for the seat.

Jagoe and her family moved to the area from Maryland, where she served on the citizen's advisory board, an offshoot of the district's board of directors, for a school district including 127 schools with 80,000 students.

Lyle Sweppenheiser's resignation as assistant boy's volleyball coach was approved.

Sandy Spott was appointed as assistant track coach at a stipend of \$2525 as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Ryan Laubauch was appointed as assistant boys' volleyball coach at a stipend of \$2525 as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Mary Zbegner's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2014-15 school year was approved with regret. It was noted that Zbegner is credited with establishing the creative writing program at the school.

The Northeastern Intermediate Unit 19 2015-16 operating budget was approved.

At the beginning of the meeting, two choral students were recognized for outstanding achievement.

Seth Williams will be attending the All Eastern States Choral Festival in April, based on his performance at an audition at last year's All State Chorus Festival.

Cassandra Brown will be attending the 2015 All State Chorus Festival. The students were congratulated by the board, and the Madrigal Choir performed two songs for their entertainment in observance of Music in Our Schools Month.

A pasta dinner fundraiser for music scholarships will be held Monday night at Gin's Tavern, with advance and door tickets being sold at \$10.